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OTHER LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND RELATED MATTERS, AS WELL AS LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THOSE REFERRED TO WORKING GROUP III BY WORKING GROUP I, WORKING GROUP II AND THE PLENARY OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Creation of a "Planet Earth Council"

Proposal submitted by Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

1. The Central American countries see clearly that the development of our peoples is inseparably bound up with caring for the environment.

2. Our region has made significant progress on the path towards peace and now, together with all nations of the world, we are confronting a new challenge, that of establishing that same peace with nature. We have learned that respect for life and caring for the earth are basic pillars in building this new model of society within a just and equitable economic order.

3. The political will of the Central American Presidents on this score has been expressed in the decisions adopted at presidential summits, in the creation of mechanisms such as environment and development commissions at the national and regional levels, the creation of specific commissions responsible for such matters within the legislative bodies and the establishment of the Central American Interparliamentary Commission on Environment and Development.

4. Central America recognizes and gives due weight to the crucial importance these negotiations have for the future of the planet, and acknowledges the need to establish suitable mechanisms for taking full advantage of the effort the international community has made in connection with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. The Central American Governments support the Costa Rican proposal contained in paragraph 163 of document A/CONF.151/PC/102, and accordingly propose the creation of a "Planet Earth Council", composed of a group of persons distinguished by their high scientific qualifications and recognized international prestige. The Council will systematically review and help to follow up on the agreements and resolutions adopted at the forthcoming Conference in Rio de Janeiro and will also help to support the implementation and execution of Agenda 21.

6. In accordance with document A/CONF.151/PC/102, it would aim, inter alia, to review environmental and development activities and topics, and to monitor international obligations and agreements, indicating those areas requiring the most priority, revision or direction. As an advisory body, it would also have the task of assessing and investigating threats and solutions to environmental and development problems of global importance.

7. This proposal is the outcome of agreements reached by the Central American Presidents at their latest summit held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in December 1991, which were intended to promote the participation of Governments, institutions, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and sectors in implementing and publicizing the Agenda 21 programmes and other relevant decisions connected with global environmental and development processes.

8. Central America is submitting this initiative to the Preparatory Committee so that Governments may approve and support the creation of the proposed Council, and declares its readiness to provide the necessary facilities so that it can operate in the Central American region.